

Message Text

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R 170635Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012309

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PL

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: POLISH REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 299282 (12/19/75), (B) STATE 151659
(6/27/75)

1. AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE ON JANUARY 14 TO DISCUSS CIVIL AVIATION, THE DANZIG BONDS GOLD/QUESTION AND POSSIBLE EXIM BANK FINANCING FOR RCA COLOR TELEVISION PROJECT (FULL MEMCON BEING POUCHED).

2. REGARDING AVIATION MATTERS, TRAMPCZYNSKI SAID THAT GOP PROPOSED HOLDING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN WARSAW FROM FEBRUARY 9-13. ARMITAGE ASKED WHETHER THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED AN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY STYLES (AV) DURING DECEMBER 18 MEETING (REFTEL A). ARMITAGE SAID THAT WE WANTED A CLARIFICATION OF SEVERAL POINTS RAISED IN EMBASSY'S AIDE MEMOIRE. TRAMPCZYNSKI SAID HE HAD HEARD
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NOTHING FROM WARSAW BUT WOULD FOLLOW UP.

3. ARMITAGE NOTED THAT, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THE POLISH POSITION ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. THUS OUR NEGOTIATORS WERE UNDERSTANDABLY

RELUCTANT TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER CONSULTATIONS. A NEW APPROACH WAS NECESSARY. WE REALIZED THAT THE GOP WAS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING SUMMER SCHEDULING PROBLEMS (E.G. ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES AND ROUTES), BUT THERE WERE ALSO OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ON THE TABLE. IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT WE RECEIVED SOME RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.

4. ARMITAGE SAID THAT FUTURE CONSULTATIONS SHOULD FOCUS ON WAYS TO STRIKE A SATISFACTORY FINANCIAL BALANCE OF BENEFITS AND AVOID, INsofar AS POSSIBLE, A FRUITLESS DISCUSSION OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES. TRAMPCZYNSKI STRESSED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ACCOMPANYING THE 1972 AGREEMENT BOTH SIDES WERE COMMITTED TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1975. ARMITAGE SAID THAT WE HAD ALREADY HELD SUCH DISCUSSIONS LAST SPRING BUT THAT, IN ANY EVENT, THIS WAS NOT A PROBLEM. THE U.S. AND POLAND HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS. BUT NEITHER SIDE WANTED TO GO THROUGH ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS LIKE THOSE HELD LAST JUNE.

5. POLISH REPS. HAVE ON THIS AND OTHER OCCASIONS IMPLIED THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT LIVED UP TO ITS COMMITMENT UNDER THE 1972 AGREEMENT REGARDING CONSULTATIONS. HOWEVER, PARAGRAPH 4 OF U.S. NOTE OF JULY 19, 1972, STATES THAT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD "BE INITIATED" BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1975. STRICTLY SPEAKING, WE HAVE ALREADY MET THAT REQUIREMENT. THUS, WE CANNOT ACCEPT ALLEGATION THAT WE ARE "TECHNICALLY IN VIOLATION" OF THE AGREEMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN WINNING POINTS IN A DEBATE WITH POLES OVER AN INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT. RATHER, WE ARE ANXIOUS TO WORK OUT AN EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENT WHICH PROVIDES A GENUINE BALANCE OF FINANCIAL BENEFITS TO BOTH AIR LINES. WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS GOAL ONLY IF BOTH SIDES COME TO THE BARGAINING TABLE PREPARED TO

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NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY.

6. DRAWING ON ABOVE POINTS, EMBASSY REQUESTED TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE POLISH AUTHORITIES AND REITERATE NEED FOR EARLY REPLY TO QUESTIONS RAISED PREVIOUSLY BY STYLES. YOU SHOULD ALSO REMIND POLES THAT OUR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES, ETC. WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER WE ARE ABLE TO PERCEIVE ANY CHANGE IN POLISH POSITION ON OUT-

STANDING QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO US, PARTICULARLY THE ZLOTY SALES ISSUE, IN ADVANCE OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE NOT ASKING GOP TO REVEAL ITS NEGOTIATING HAND AT THIS TIME, BUT WE DO WANT TO BE ASSURED THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WILL BE MORE FRUITFUL THAN THE LAST. IN THAT REGARD, WE ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER GOP IS NOW IN POSITION

TO CONSIDER A COMPROMISE SOLUTION ALONG THE LINES OF THAT SUGGESTED BY USDEL IN JUNE, NAMELY, AN ADDITIONAL FREQUENCY FOR LOT IN EXCHANGE FOR A POLISH COMMITMENT TO PERMIT LOT TO SELL PAN AM SERVICES FOR ZLOTYS BETWEEN WARSAW AND CHICAGO (REFTEL B).

7. FYI. AV IS ANXIOUS TO ARRANGE TALKS ASAP,HOPEFULLY AROUND MAY OR JUNE WHEN CONSULTATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW. HOWEVER, BEFORE PROPOSING FIRM DATE TO POLES, DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE SOME INDICATION THAT POLES ARE PREPARED TO MOVE AHEAD TO RESOLVE ZLOTY SALES ISSUE. END FYI. KISSINGER

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